

Medievalist for a Semester

This semester, YOU are going to experience what it is like to be a medievalist and, while doing so, really learn about the research process and how it works within the field of English Studies.

Thus, I hereby dub you a Medievalist for a Semester!

Note: The amount of work assigned for each checkpoint is based on the understanding that the work will NOT be completed all in one day or in one sitting. The work should be spread throughout the ample time between checkpoints.

Suggestion: Do not wait to complete assignments. Get ahead and STAY ahead!

Checkpoint #1 (to be completed on your Medievalist for a Semester page)

Due: September 30

- Create your Medievalist for a Semester page (see [Instruction Guide](#) on how to create a page)
 - Title: your last name, first name (Example: Tracy, Kisha)
 - Be sure to tag it with "student" when you create it (this will allow it to show up automatically in the navigation bar to the right)
 - Once you have created your page, be sure to organize it clearly, including marking where each Checkpoint begins
 - Read list of course readings and descriptions
 - Choose text(s)/author
 - If having difficulty choosing a text, see Dr. T in her office hours or make an appointment
 - Read chosen text(s) before starting work for next checkpoint
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Suggestions between Checkpoints

- If someone else in the class is working on a related text, contact him/her
 - If you have questions about research, do not forget our course librarian: [Research and Citation Help](#)
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Checkpoint #2 (to be completed on your Medievalist for a Semester page)

Due: October 15

- Annotated Bibliography: minimum of 3 entries
 - Citations should be in [correct MLA format](#)
 - Reminder: you may need to order from Interlibrary Loan (ILL) if necessary articles/books are not available in PDF form in the databases/in the library
 - Go to FSU Library and speak to a librarian for assistance concerning research methods on your topic
 - Print hard copy of Library Visit Form, have librarian sign (form on wiki)
 - Turn in Library Visit Form in class
- Summary of chosen text(s): minimum of 200 words
 - What are the main plot points?
 - Who are the main characters?
- Critical analysis/close reading of at least 3 quotations from chosen text(s): minimum of 200 words each (example of close reading on wiki)
- Review classmates' pages/Post comments and suggestions

Suggestions between Checkpoints

- Create a research group in the class (pairs/groups) to read each other's work and encourage consistent work (suggested: meet once a week)
 - Check if Dr. T is available to visit your group meeting
- If you have questions about research, do not forget our course librarian: [Research and Citation Help](#)

Checkpoint #3 (to be completed on your Medievalist for a Semester page)

Due: November 4

- [Annotated Bibliography](#): add at least 3 more entries on a focused theme related to your chosen text(s)
 - Citations should be in [correct MLA format](#)
 - At least 1 of these sources should be found from the Works Cited/Bibliography of another source (note this in your annotation, including information on the initial source)
- Contact a medievalist; ask at least three questions
 - CC Dr. T on the email to your chosen medievalist
 - You will more than likely need help locating a medievalist to contact; talk to Dr. T
- Reflection on trends in scholarship: minimum of 200 words
 - Based upon your research to date:
 - What are scholars concerned with in your text(s)?
 - What issues are being discussed/debated in scholarship?
 - What approaches are scholars taking to the text(s)?
- Query (informed by research) about related text(s): minimum of 200 words
 - What question about your text(s) has occurred to you as you have completed your research?
 - Is there an argument in the scholarship that has made you question a point or points in the text(s)?
 - Is there something confusing about the text(s) that you think would be worth exploring?
- Review classmates' pages/Post comments and suggestions

Suggestions between Checkpoints

- Discuss Journal Article idea with Dr. T
- Revisit library for more research assistance: you may turn in another Library Visit Form
- Note: articles/books you will need at this stage may not all be available in PDF form/in the library; you may need to order them through Interlibrary Loan (ILL)

Checkpoint #4 (to be completed on your Medievalist for a Semester page)

Due: November 25

- [Annotated Bibliography](#): add at least 3 more entries related to your Journal Article
 - Citations should be in [correct MLA format](#)
- Argument AGAINST a scholarly article: minimum of 200 words
 - What is the article's argument?
 - Why do you disagree?
 - What evidence from the text(s) support your reading?

- [Abstract](#) of Journal Article: minimum of 300 words
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Suggestions between Checkpoints

- [Create](#) an outline of Journal Article (upload to your page)
 - [Revisit](#) library for more research assistance: you may turn in another Library Visit Form
 - [Show](#) a rough draft to Dr. T (suggested: at least a week before due)
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Journal Article (to be turned in through "Assignments" on Blackboard)

Submission Information

Feudal Endeavor is a journal of essays authored by undergraduates and focused on general literary studies of the Middle Ages. *Feudal Endeavor* articles are well-researched and explicate interesting ideas related to the field of medieval studies. Authors are held to high standards of academic thought, research, correct citation, and presentation. All articles will be assessed by the general editor.

Contributors to *Feudal Endeavor* should double-space manuscripts and format them according to the most recent edition of the [MLA Manual of Style](#), including in-text citations. Works Cited should be **annotated** and there should be a **minimum of six (6) sources (not including primary texts)**. We **do not accept web sites** as sources unless previously approved. Only articles meeting the **minimum length of ten (10) pages** will be accepted. Manuscripts should be in **Times New Roman, 12-point font with 1-inch margins**. Please see our [Writing Expectations](#) for further insight into our style. Articles that do not follow these guidelines will not be considered; see our [policies](#).

Deadline is Tuesday, December 17, at 2:20PM. Please use our submission system on Blackboard.

Optional Goal: Preparation for Submission to a Research Conference

[Plymouth State University Medieval and Renaissance Forum](#)

- Abstract deadline: January 15, 2014
- Presenters and early registration: March 15, 2014
- Conference: April 25-26, 2014
- Undergraduate sessions may be proposed with faculty sponsorship

[Fitchburg State Undergraduate Conference on Research and Creative Practice](#)

- Abstract deadline: TBA Spring semester
- Conference: April 24, 2014
- May submit for a poster display or an oral presentation

Conference of your choice!